the border aeas. These measures are contributing to improved border management and prevention of criminal and subversive activities.

2. The extradition arrangements between India and Nepal are presently governed by the Treaty of Extradition of 1953. The Government of India has proposed that the Treaty be updated and has initiated discussions with His Majesty's Government of Nepal in this regard. The Government of India has also entered into discussions with HMGN on conclusion of Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. The first round of discussions on the Extradition Treaty and the Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between GOI and HMGN was held in Kathmandu on February 16-19, 2003. Conclusion of these agreements would further strengthen the institutional legal arrangements between India and Nepal for effectively combating crime and terrorism.

Perks to lower staff in Indian missions

2651. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether CAG has indicted the Ministry for bonus and other perks being given to the lower staff in various Indian mission abroad, especially in Europe;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reason for extra privileges to them and remedial measures proposed to be taken to rectify the irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) CAG had included an audit para in his report no. 2 of 1999 pointing out that there had been inadmissible payment of bonus to locally recruited employees of the Mission/Posts in the USA.

(b) In December 1997, bonus of one month's salary or US$ 1000/-, whichever was less, was paid to locally recruited employees of Mission/Posts in the USA. Audit had taken the view that there was no requirement to pay bonus as it was not in accordance with the local practice.

(c) The Ministry is of the view that payment of one month's bonus to local employees was in keeping with local practice. The Mission/Posts in

the USA have, however, been directed not to make similar payments until this matter has been properly resolved.

Implementation of Land Boundary Agreement between India and Bangladesh

2652. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether two Joint Boundary Groups have been set up by the Governments of India and Bangladesh to resolve all pending issues relating to the implementation of the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement between both the countries; and

(b) if so; the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) Two meetings of the Joint Boundary Working Groups between India and Bangladesh have already been held in July, 2001 and March 2002 respectively. The first group deals with the issue of completion of demarcation of the land boundary, while the second group deals with the issue of exchange of enclaves and adverse possessions. Views on the resolution of the pending demarcation in three sectors were exchanged in detail. Modalities for the orderly exchange of the enclaves and adverse possessions were also discussed between the two sides. It has been agreed to continue discussions on all unresolved matters relating to the implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement of 1974 through the mechanism of the Joint Boundary Working Groups.

Indian Peacekeeping Forces

†2653. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian peacekeeping forces have been sent to several countries under the aegis of United Nations Organisation in the past;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.